BRIAN ISOM

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EDUCATION

Utah State University | Jon M. Huntsman School of Business   Logan, UT
M.S. Economics   May 2018
- Honors: Magna Cum Laude (GPA: 3.80)
- Research Fellowship with the Center for Growth and Opportunity

B.S. Finance and Economics, Minor Physics   May 2016
- Honors: Cum Laude (GPA 3.58)
- Presidential Scholarship (full tuition), Balanced Man Scholarship (leadership), and Lillywhite Scholarship (business)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Center for Growth and Opportunity at Utah State University   Logan, UT
Analyst, Energy and Environmental Policy   Jan 2018 - Present
- Authored more than 35 publications on issues related to various policy issues. Publications focused mostly on energy and environmental topics and ranged from opinion editorials to rigorous, peer-reviewed studies
- Regularly used the R programming language to access data via API's, scrape websites, construct datasets, and run statistical analysis. Proficient with the tidyverse suite of packages, among others
- Served as an issue expert on multiple podcasts and nationally syndicated radio shows
- Presented research to various audiences including members of Congress, state-level policy makers, industry experts, and non-profit coalitions
- Managed teams of between 5-15 students on anywhere between 2-6 projects at a time, who helped conduct background research, collect data, and co-author reports

Director, Student Research Fellowship   Jan 2021 - Present
- Tasked with re-structuring the fellowship to focus on getting students more deeply involved in the research process. Drove changes resulting in an almost 2x increase in student research output and a 10x increase in the number of students presenting at research conferences
- Oversaw the hiring, training, and management of 40 graduate and undergraduate student research fellows each semester
- Rebuilt the student tracking database to improve data quality and cross-team data access
- Designed and implemented a curriculum focused on developing students' critical thinking, research, writing, and public speaking skills
- Taught workshops each semester to develop student proficiency in R, Python, and Excel and various economic and political theories

Manager, Environmental Stewardship Portfolio   Jan 2018 – Jan 2021
- Developed the annual research strategy for energy and environment-related research
- Organized conference events and workshops to encourage discussions between scholars, stakeholders, and thought-leaders on pressing policy issues
- Regularly worked with external scholars to publish actionable research. This included developing research questions, providing feedback, and identifying outreach opportunities
- Managed the peer-review and publication process for all publications within the environmental stewardship portfolio

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Strata Policy   Logan, UT
Policy Analyst   Jul 2014 – Aug 2017

- Conducted economic and policy related research on the economic impacts of hydraulic fracturing, the effects of public institutions on water markets in the Western US, the effects of public policy on innovation in the nuclear industry, and the impact of renewable portfolio standards on state-wide economies
- Managed a team of 4-8 student researchers on two separate projects at a time
- Partnered with economics professors to build advanced analytical models
- Presented research at numerous conferences around the world including the Southern Economic Association's Annual Conference and the Association for Private Enterprise Education's Annual Conference

SKILLS

Programming Languages

- R (advanced)
- LaTeX (advanced)
- Python (intermediate)
- SQL (intermediate)
- YAML (intermediate)
- HTML (intermediate)
- CSS (intermediate)
- Ruby (beginner)

Software

- MS Excel (advanced)
- Airtable (advanced)
- GitHub (intermediate)
- Tableau (intermediate)
- ArcGIS (intermediate)
- Salesforce (intermediate)
- Power BI (beginner)

Spoken Languages

- English (native)
- Finnish (fluent)